



One Swallow
presents

Mustard Chocolate

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マスタード・ チョコレート

冬川智子

Mustard
Chocolate



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冬川智子



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Part 1

QUICK CONTEXT NOTES ON CRAM SCHOOLS

Education in Japan is no laughing matter. Entrance to universities, high schools, and even many middle schools requires passing demanding and often frankly arcane entrance exams. Factors such as transcripts, essays, interviews and recommendations are often accorded less importance in Japanese entrance evaluations than they receive in many Western settings.

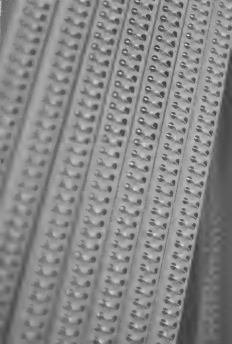
Japanese students will often supplement their compulsory education by attending "cram schools" or "prep schools" in the evenings and often even on weekends (where study sessions can become all-day affairs).

Attendance at such cram schools can begin as early as elementary school, and regular attendance is often seen as indispensable for success on rigorous high school and college entrance exams.

Many cram schools are geared to target one specific area of education (i.e. fine arts), but *some* cram schools tailor attendees to *one specific school*.

Cram schools are often run by educators with years of educational experience, but staff members can also be current university students (such as Yaguchi here) or contract employees with other credentials.

Due to specificity, reputation, cost, and so forth, cram schools can attract students from many different feeder schools, potentially resulting in social interaction and networking students otherwise wouldn't be afforded. (On the other hand, many cram schools are rather curt, unfriendly places where students may be afforded little opportunity to ever open their mouths.





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Translation note: This panel originally relies on an obscure pun. Midori's understanding of English (which is broken beyond repair) is that "kay" is the letter "K" and Japanese school with the English letter "K". Secondly, because it was the loudest word in her personal pronoun.



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